

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5234

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Spearman, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblymen Rooney  
and Verrelli**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits counties to establish a central municipal drug court.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/08/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning the municipal courts, authorizing the  
2 establishment of a court of limited jurisdiction supplementing  
3 and revising various parts of the statutory law.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. N.J.S.2B:12-1 is amended to read as follows:

9 2B:12-1. Establishment of municipal courts.

10 a. Every municipality shall establish a municipal court. If a  
11 municipality fails to maintain a municipal court or does not enter  
12 into an agreement pursuant to subsection b. or c. of this section, the  
13 Assignment Judge of the vicinage shall order violations occurring  
14 within its boundaries heard in any other municipal court in the  
15 county until such time as the municipality establishes and maintains  
16 a municipal court. The municipality without a municipal court shall  
17 be responsible for all administrative costs specified in the order of  
18 the Assignment Judge pending the establishment of its municipal  
19 court.

20 b. Two or more municipalities, by ordinance, may enter into an  
21 agreement establishing a single joint municipal court and providing  
22 for its administration. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with  
23 the Administrative Director of the Courts. As used in this act,  
24 "municipal court" includes a joint municipal court.

25 c. Two or more municipalities, by ordinance or resolution, may  
26 agree to provide jointly for courtrooms, chambers, equipment,  
27 supplies and employees for their municipal courts and agree to  
28 appoint judges and administrators without establishing a joint  
29 municipal court. Where municipal courts share facilities in this  
30 manner, the identities of the individual courts shall continue to be  
31 expressed in the captions of orders and process.

32 d. An agreement pursuant to subsection b. or c. of this section  
33 may be terminated as provided in the agreement. If the agreement  
34 makes no provision for termination, it may be terminated by any  
35 party with reasonable notices and terms as determined by the  
36 Assignment Judge of the vicinage.

37 e. Any county of the first class with a population of over  
38 900,000 and a population density of less than 4,000 persons per  
39 square mile according to the 2010 federal decennial census may  
40 establish, by ordinance, a central municipal court, which shall be an  
41 inferior court of limited jurisdiction, to adjudicate cases filed by  
42 agents of the county health department, agents of the county office  
43 of consumer affairs, members of the county police department and  
44 force, county park police system, or sheriff's office, or other cases  
45 within its jurisdiction referred by the vicinage Assignment Judge

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 pursuant to the Rules of Court, and provide for its administration. A  
2 copy of that ordinance shall be filed with the Administrative  
3 Director of the Courts. As used in this act, "municipal court"  
4 includes a central municipal court.

5 f. Nothing in P.L.2015, c.103 shall require a county that has  
6 established and maintained a central municipal court in accordance  
7 with subsection e. of N.J.S.2B:12-1 prior to the date of the  
8 enactment of P.L.2015, c.103 to re-establish that court.

9 g. Any county may establish, by ordinance, a central municipal  
10 drug court, which shall be an inferior court of limited jurisdiction,  
11 to adjudicate cases within its jurisdiction and cases referred by the  
12 vicinage Assignment Judge pursuant to the Rules of Court, and  
13 provide for its administration. A copy of that ordinance shall be  
14 filed with the Administrative Director of the Courts. As used in  
15 this act, "municipal court" includes a central municipal drug court.  
16 (cf: P.L.2015, c.103, s.1)

17

18 2. N.J.S.2B:12-2 is amended to read as follows:

19 2B:12-2. Name of court. The name of a municipal court of a  
20 single municipality shall be the "Municipal Court of (insert name of  
21 municipality)." The name of a joint municipal court shall be  
22 specified in the ordinances establishing the court. The name of a  
23 central municipal court shall be the "Central Municipal Court of the  
24 County of (insert name of county)" and shall be specified in the  
25 ordinance establishing the court. The name of a central municipal  
26 drug court shall be the "Central Municipal Drug Court of the  
27 County of (insert name of county)" and shall be specified in the  
28 ordinance establishing the court.

29 (cf: P.L.1996, c.95, s.2)

30

31 3. N.J.S.2B:12-4 is amended to read as follows:

32 2B:12-4. Judge of municipal court; term of office; appointment.

33 a. Each judge of a municipal court shall serve for a term of  
34 three years from the date of appointment and until a successor is  
35 appointed and qualified. Any appointment to fill a vacancy not  
36 caused by the expiration of term shall be made for the unexpired  
37 term only. However, if a county or municipality requires by  
38 ordinance that the judge of the municipal court devote full time to  
39 judicial duties or limit the practice of law to non-litigated matters,  
40 the first appointment after the establishment of that requirement  
41 shall be for a full term of three years.

42 b. In municipalities governed by a mayor-council form of  
43 government, the municipal court judge shall be appointed by the  
44 mayor with the advice and consent of the council. Each judge of a  
45 joint municipal court shall be nominated and appointed by the  
46 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In all other  
47 municipalities, the municipal judge shall be appointed by the  
48 governing body of the municipality.

1 c. In a county that has established a central municipal court,  
2 the judge of the central municipal court shall be nominated and  
3 appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the  
4 Senate. In those counties having a county executive, the county  
5 executive may submit the names of judicial candidates for judge of  
6 the central municipal court to the Governor. In all other counties,  
7 the governing body may submit the names of judicial candidates for  
8 judge of the central municipal court to the Governor.

9 d. In a county that has established a central municipal drug  
10 court, the judge of the central municipal drug court shall be  
11 nominated and appointed by the Governor with the advice and  
12 consent of the Senate. In those counties having a county executive,  
13 the county executive may submit the names of judicial candidates  
14 for judge of the central municipal drug court to the Governor. In all  
15 other counties, the governing body may submit the names of  
16 judicial candidates for judge of the central municipal drug court to  
17 the Governor.

18 (cf: P.L.1996, c.95, s.3)

19  
20 4. N.J.S.2B:12-15 is amended to read as follows:

21 2B:12-15. Courtrooms and equipment. Suitable courtrooms,  
22 chambers, offices, equipment and supplies for the municipal court,  
23 its administrator's office and its violations bureau shall be provided  
24 by the municipality or by a county that has established a central  
25 municipal court or a central municipal drug court.

26 (cf: P.L.1996, c.95, s.10)

27  
28 5. N.J.S.2B:12-16 is amended to read as follows:

29 2B:12-16. Territorial jurisdiction. a. A municipal court of a  
30 single municipality shall have jurisdiction over cases arising within  
31 the territory of that municipality except as provided in section 10 of  
32 P.L.1997, c.357 (C.27:25-5.15). A joint municipal court shall have  
33 jurisdiction over cases arising within the territory of any of the  
34 municipalities which the court serves. The territory of a  
35 municipality includes any premises or property located partly in and  
36 partly outside of the municipality. A central municipal court shall  
37 have jurisdiction over cases arising within the territorial boundaries  
38 of the county. A central municipal drug court shall have  
39 jurisdiction over cases arising within the territorial boundaries of  
40 the county as set forth in section of P.L. , c. (C. )(now  
41 pending before the Legislature as section of this bill).

42 b. A municipal court judge, serving as an acting judge in any  
43 other municipal court in the county, may also hear matters arising  
44 out of that other court, while sitting in the court where the acting  
45 judge holds a regular appointment.

46 (cf: P.L.1997, c.357, s.13)

47  
48 6. N.J.S.2B:12-17 is amended to read as follows:

1 2B:12-17. Jurisdiction of specified offenses. A municipal court  
2 has jurisdiction over the following cases within the territorial  
3 jurisdiction of the court:

- 4 a. Violations of county or municipal ordinances;
- 5 b. Violations of the motor vehicle and traffic laws;
- 6 c. Disorderly persons offenses, petty disorderly persons  
7 offenses and other non-indictable offenses except where exclusive  
8 jurisdiction is given to the Superior Court or to a central municipal  
9 drug court established by a county where jurisdiction over certain  
10 disorderly persons offenses or petty disorderly persons offenses is  
11 given to the central municipal drug court pursuant to section 9 of  
12 P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the Legislature as section  
13 9 of this bill);
- 14 d. Violations of the fish and game laws;
- 15 e. Proceedings to collect a penalty where jurisdiction is granted  
16 by statute;
- 17 f. Violations of laws regulating boating; and
- 18 g. Any other proceedings where jurisdiction is granted by  
19 statute.

20 (cf: P.L.1996, c.95, s.12)

21

22 7. N.J.S.2B:12 -18 is amended to read as follows:

23 2B:12-18. Jurisdiction of specified offenses where indictment  
24 and trial by jury are waived. A municipal court has jurisdiction  
25 over the following crimes occurring within the territorial  
26 jurisdiction of the court, where the person charged waives  
27 indictment and trial by jury in writing and the county prosecutor  
28 consents in writing:

- 29 a. Crimes of the fourth degree enumerated in chapters 17, 18,  
30 20 and 21 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes; or
- 31 b. Crimes where the term of imprisonment that may be  
32 imposed does not exceed one year unless the crime is related to an  
33 offense concerning controlled dangerous substances or controlled  
34 dangerous substance analogs in which case a central municipal drug  
35 court, if established, shall have jurisdiction pursuant to section 9 of  
36 P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the Legislature as section  
37 9 of this bill).

38 (cf: P.L.1993, c.293, s.1)

39

40 8. Section 14 of P.L.1996, c.95 (C.2B:12-27) is amended to  
41 read as follows:

42 14. The governing body of the county or municipality may  
43 employ an attorney-at-law as a prosecutor, under the supervision of  
44 the Attorney General or county prosecutor, who may represent the  
45 State, county or municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction or  
46 the central municipal court, central municipal drug court or any  
47 other municipal court in accordance with the provisions of

1 P.L.1999, c.349 (C.2B:25-1 et al.).  
2 (cf: P.L.1999, c.349, s.11)

3

4 9. (New section) A central municipal drug court has  
5 jurisdiction over the following cases within the territorial  
6 jurisdiction of the court:

7 a. Crimes of the fourth degree enumerated in chapters 35 or 36  
8 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes; or

9 b. Crimes where the term of imprisonment that may be  
10 imposed does not exceed one year and the crime is related to an  
11 offense concerning controlled dangerous substances or controlled  
12 dangerous substance analogs; or

13 c. Disorderly persons offenses or petty disorderly persons  
14 offenses where the offense is related to an offense concerning  
15 controlled dangerous substances or controlled dangerous substance  
16 analogs.

17

18 10. (New section) A juvenile who commits an act which, if  
19 committed by an adult, would constitute any of the offenses set  
20 forth in section 9 of P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the  
21 Legislature as section 9 of this bill) may be referred to the central  
22 municipal drug court by the Presiding Judge of the Family Part of  
23 the Superior Court for the vicinage in which the central municipal  
24 drug court is established.

25

26 11. (New section) a. A person, sentenced by a central municipal  
27 drug court, may be ordered to perform community service in lieu of  
28 incarceration or other modification of the sentence with the person's  
29 consent. The county or municipal official in charge of the  
30 community service program shall report to the central municipal  
31 drug court any failure of a person subject to a court work order to  
32 report for work or to perform the assigned work. Upon receipt of  
33 the report, the central municipal drug court may revoke its  
34 community service order and impose any sentence consistent with  
35 the original sentence.

36 b. A person, sentenced by a central municipal drug court, may  
37 be ordered to a treatment program in lieu of incarceration, with the  
38 person's consent. The director of the drug treatment program shall  
39 report to the central municipal drug court any failure of a person  
40 subject to a court order to successfully complete the treatment  
41 program. Upon receipt of the report, the central municipal drug  
42 court may revoke its order for treatment and impose any sentence  
43 consistent with the original sentence.

44

45 12. (New section) a. A county or municipality may employ  
46 attorneys-at-law on a full-time, part-time or per-case basis to  
47 provide for the representation of persons entitled by law to  
48 appointment of counsel in a central municipal drug court.

